

Public Meeting Virgin Gorda

June 18th 2014

Mission Statement

My people, the Virgin Islands Party has as its mission the betterment of our people through opportunities for their empowerment, and the primary goal to that end is winning the next general election and retaking the government which we never should have lost in 2011.

That in mind, as Chairman I have asked God for the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, so I have accepted the fact that we have lost that election. I have also asked God for the courage to change the things I can, so winning the next election has become my mandate. I also asked God for the wisdom to know the difference. So it became clear to me that we lost because we were divided, and we fought each other. And I know now that we must be united, so we can fight our opponents.

I am now fully committed to positioning the Party to winning the next general election.

The culture of disrespect which first surfaced in the elections campaign of 2011 when a candidate referred to the territory's sitting Deputy Premier as "an empty kerosine pan", and later another who is today a sitting minister referred to the then sitting Premier as "an emperor without clothes", continues to this day. As you would have seen that minister insulting this member of the opposition on the floor of the House of Assembly.

In the book of Mathew, the scripture tells us:

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

This party will not stoop to the level of ill-repute, we must remain focused and be the bigger person for we are on a mission to serve, and not be served. No one in this party must ever feel that they are above anyone, including the man on the street.

Our systems are crumbling before our eyes and those who are responsible feel more comfortable doing what will get them elected than doing what they were elected for.

Our economy has tanked since this government took office two and a half years ago, and for those two and a half years they told you that the reason the country was in the mess its in was because we left it in a \$40 million hole. And we allowed that lie to go unchallenged all that time.

But just last week after deciding we were having no more of that, the question was asked for the Premier to give us the contracts that were either completed or had work completed before Nov. 7th 2011 and had outstanding payments, so we could determine what debt the VIP had left behind, the only thing the Premier could present was a list that was so riddled with errors and untruths that it was comical.

I am not making this up either, I have the list.

We as a party must understand that it is not enough to remind the people of their suffering, by simply reminding them of the many bad policies, and failed policies of this government. We must state what we will be doing that is different.

That is why we recognize that the same type of revolutionary thinking that went into our education system in 1968 by our founding Chairman must be applied. It was the move that saw a secondary school which catered to a privileged few of only 125 students, overnight opened up to over 800 students, catering to the masses from every corner of the territory.

We must avoid at all cost, Get the referee to make all players put their jerseys in their pants predecessors have worked so hard to eradicate them.

We must place a higher priority on making the jurisdiction a preferred location for ships registry, aircraft registry, aircraft and aircraft mortgage registry, and aircraft engine mortgage registry. Not too many people even in the industry would think that the BVI has these services.

We must institute public private partnership programs that will see our youth positioned to establish themselves in thriving industries here in the Virgin Islands, such as the marine industry. These partnerships I understand does come at a cost to government, but it is a cost I am more than prepared to pay when considering the returns.

The situation with water scarcity reduces us to third world standard. Dumping raw municipal sewage in the ocean off our shoreline in the 21st century is despicable, and would be remedied within one year, along with the water problem. All this would come at no cost to government.

The territory needs a sovereign Bonds rating, which would allow us to challenge the creative genius and entrepreneurial skills of many of our residents, while at the same time providing a novel way for government to raise capital.

Our Party has work to do and we cannot be distracted by those who have failed the very people that we are preparing to save. Preparation for that struggle must be focused, it must be deliberate and with a purpose. One must be committed in order to succeed, and they must be genuine and sincere.

I make no secret of the fact that we are in a search for candidates to fill the 11 slots on our ticket that will become constitutionally vacant in order to contest a seat in the next general election.

Virgin Gorda and Anegada: The 9th District, we are here tonight by design. You are the first stop on this journey because we want to tell you that you are foremost on our minds. And we are determined to ensure that the Representative for this District remains in our camp, that is the VIP camp. The 9th District must have a strong Representative, one who will not come to town to be eaten alive, but one who will come to town and bring you back the bacon.

To put things into perspective, let me show you how complicated things are for your Representative when compared to any of the other 8 Districts. He has to have 2 fire stations; 2 police stations may be three; 2 and possibly 3 water plants; 2 electrical generating plants; a hospital; more roads than any other District; while all these things are shared by all the other 8 Districts on Tortola.

Your task is to find yourself such a person and bring to our party with your full support. We respect your decision, we respect your judgment, and we respect your ability to choose. You have done it before and you must do it again. This Party is counting on you to present us with a candidate you know you will support.

I want you to ask yourself this simple question, can I survive another term under the party of this administration? If you can truthfully answer yes to that question then you need some serious talking to. If your answer is no, like I know it should, then you will make sure you find that right person who will maintain this seat under the VIP umbrella.

9th District, you must get your Committee together, I saw your strength at the just recently concluded Convention, but a lot has changed since, and we must make sure that the committee remains in tact. Shortly I will be talking to Mr. O'Neal about it and arranging a visit back here to see how I can help ensure continuity.

Our party was left basically numb upon learning of the news that Hon. O'Neal had decided against contesting for his seat in the next general election. This was the case because we knew we would have to start fending for ourselves in a way we were not use to. It would be untrue if I told you that I didn't expect that some day he would call it a day, but I still wasn't prepared for it.

Speak about the man:

Your service with him

What he has done

What I expect of him